



# Rural Economic Development Impacts of Wind Power

## Foote Creek Rim Projects



The Specialists in  
Wind Energy<sup>sm</sup>

# **Foote Creek Rim Projects**



- ◆ **Constructed 1997 through 2000**
- ◆ **Developed by SeaWest WindPower**
- ◆ **133 Wind Turbines- 84.8 MW Total**
- ◆ **Built in 3 Phases**
- ◆ **85% Private Land, 15% BLM Land**
- ◆ **On-site Operation & Maintenance**

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# Background

## Carbon County, Wyoming

- ◆ Population 2000: 15,639
- ◆ Households: 6,129
- ◆ 1997 Median household income \$36,124
- ◆ -6.1% population 1990 to 2000
- ◆ Largest City: Rawlins

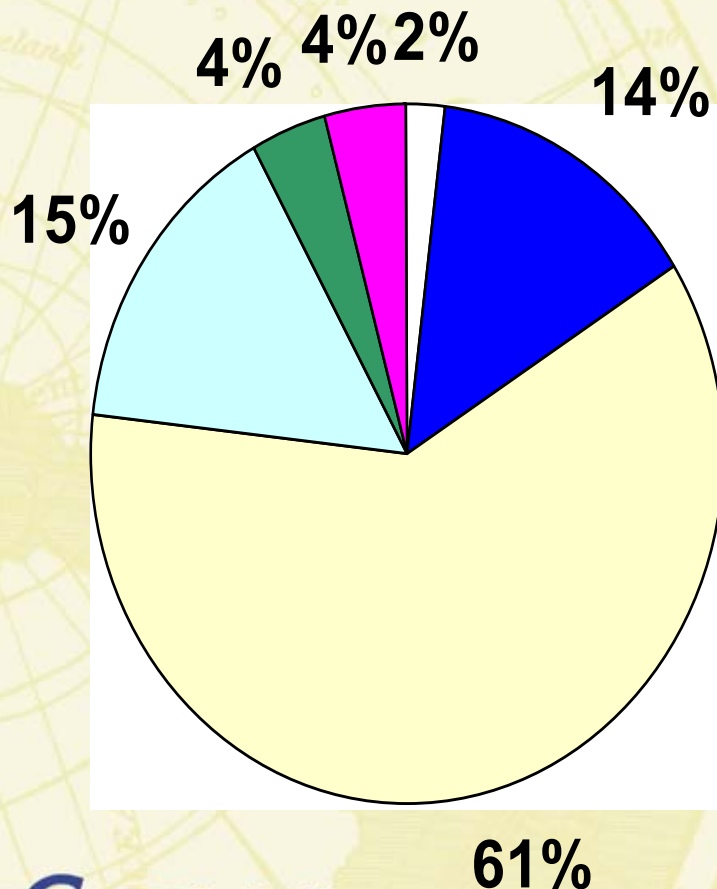
# Local Economic Status Carbon County, Wyoming



- ◆ Non-diversified Economy
- ◆ Mining, Oil & Gas, Retail, Agriculture
- ◆ Influenced by Cyclical Factors
- ◆ Government is largest employer with 23% of work force
- ◆ Tax Base grew 5% from 1995 to 2000



# Development/Construction Costs



- Land/Site
- Construction
- Equipment
- Finance/Transaction
- Proj. Mgmt & Permits
- Taxes

# **Economic Benefits of Wind Power Project**



- ◆ **Employment Diversification**
- ◆ **Property/Sales Tax Revenues**
- ◆ **Positive Fiscal Impact**
- ◆ **Gradual growth over time**
- ◆ **Benefits flow to local economy**

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# Employment Diversification



- ◆ **Skilled Jobs - 18 full time Direct Jobs, plus 9 full time Indirect Jobs**
- ◆ **Higher than average wages - Average Wage \$32,500 versus \$21,117 (1998) County Average**
- ◆ **Jobs multiplier effect - 1.5 to 1.7**
- ◆ **Long-term nature of Wind Power Projects**
- ◆ **Stable employment insulated from Cyclical Downturns**

# Property & Sales Tax Revenues

- ◆ Personal Property Taxes paid to County total \$9,433,000 over 20 years
- ◆ Wyoming Sales Taxes (5% on Turbines) -
  - ◆ \$3,730,000 (Construction Phase)
  - ◆ \$400,000 (Operating Phase)
- ◆ Real Property Tax Revenues increase slightly (Step-up in assessed value)
- ◆ Increased taxes from local contractors, secondary and tertiary businesses and parties





# Positive Fiscal Impact



- ◆ Tax Revenue far outweighs costs
- ◆ Project maintains its own roads
- ◆ No impacts to area infrastructure
- ◆ Pays its own way
- ◆ Low increased demand for fire, EMS, police protection, Social Services
- ◆ Not inherently growth inducing
- ◆ No attendant social problems

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# Gradual Growth over time



- ◆ Wind Power Expansion is gradual
- ◆ Phased development
- ◆ Results in local hiring
- ◆ Stabilizing economic effect on Farming and Ranching
- ◆ Does not impact schools, social services, or attract crime
- ◆ 20 to 25 year project life

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# **Benefits flow to local economy**

- ◆ **Landowner royalties total \$5.4 million, flow to local economy over 20 years**
- ◆ **Subcontracted services and rentals over \$100,000/yr.**
- ◆ **Local jobs**
- ◆ **Goods and services over Operating Phase**
- ◆ **Promotes tourism in project area**
- ◆ **Construction Income**



# Other Tax Revenue

- ◆ **Real Property Taxes (Increase in assessed value)**
- ◆ **Sales Taxes over time on Goods & Services**
- ◆ **Miscellaneous Taxes (Motor Vehicles Fees, Business Licenses, Fees)**



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# **Win-Win For the Region**

- ◆ **Landowner Benefits**
- ◆ **Stimulates Local and Regional Economy**
- ◆ **Construction and long-term jobs**
- ◆ **Goods and services over Operating Phase**
- ◆ **Positive Fiscal Benefit**